

Garden catalogs fertile ground

Editor's note: This is a reprint of an article that was trimmed due to space when it ran earlier this month.

By MARGE ALPERN
SPECIAL WRITER

Our local nurseries will soon be bursting with shrubs, perennials, bulbs and all the reminders of how much I love gardening.

Meantime, the catalogs provide great pleasure as I leisurely study the tempting photographs and learn from the informative captions and text that are often well written. I also do a bit of dreaming as I design and redesign my garden. It all helps to satisfy the desire to get out there.

My sun garden is composed primarily of perennials chosen for their value as cut flowers. Although I keep an eye on design, color and plant relationship, mine is essentially a cutting garden. It also is a horticulturist, I'm always interested in experimenting with new varieties.

Colorful

The "hot" colors — the yellows, golds and orange-reds — are on one side of the pathway and the "cool" colors — the pinks, blues and purples — are on the other. White is the great unifier, and the more white I use on both sides the more harmony and unity is achieved in the whole.

White alyssum provides a fluffy fringe all around the edges. Reseeding itself year after year and blooming until frost, alyssum is a most valued and welcome little plant. Nicotiana, impatiens and cushion mums provide more white accents throughout the colorful beds.

Dazzling daisy

White shasta daisies have been growing in my garden for many years. However, each summer I wonder why I allow these floppy, long-stemmed, somewhat weedy plants that I never seem to be able to stake very gracefully to enjoy so much space. Well, this is the end. Out they go!

"Becky's Daisy" as seen in the catalog from Niche Garden may be the perfect replacement. It is said to be "smoother with large white flowers that are sturdy and refuse to flop, even after a hard rain." This new variety is def-

nately worth a try. I have ordered three plants.

Incidentally, the catalog from Niche Gardens is infinitely presented and contains excellent garden advice, which more than compensates for the lack of colored photographs.

Lily flocks

"Casa Blanca" is by far the most exciting lily I have ever grown. Four-foot-tall plants yield five or six huge white out-facing lilies, which are noticeably "floppy" in a way that adds richness and texture to the marvelously shaped flowers.

Blooming in early August, the stems of the Casa Blanca are very strong and when cut, the flowers have a striking fragrance in the house. It may be hard to resist, but no more than a third of the stem should be removed in order to prevent weakening the bulb for future years. I have no reservations about recommending Casa Blanca.

Hot and cold

On the "hot" side of the garden, I'm going to add the large yellow dahlia, "Kelvin Floodlight." Generally, I don't choose flowers described as "extra large," but this "dinner plate" size bloom will be viewed from a distance in my garden and should create quite a splash. I use daisies in the house all summer, and if the stem is cut under water they last very well.

On the "cool" side, I'm going to plant 15 anemone tubers. I grew anemones last year with great success and satisfaction. These beautiful open daisy-type flowers are very sophisticated in shades of pink and purple. They bloom until frost, cut very well and have an interesting floral design.

I don't know why anemones are seen so rarely outside of the florist shops. Like the tropical dahlias, anemones aren't hardy and have to be dug up in the fall and started again in the spring.

Each year we get another chance to try a new variety, experiment with different color combinations, actually create a whole new garden and again renew our intimate connection to the earth. These are just some of the reasons gardening draws and holds so many of us.

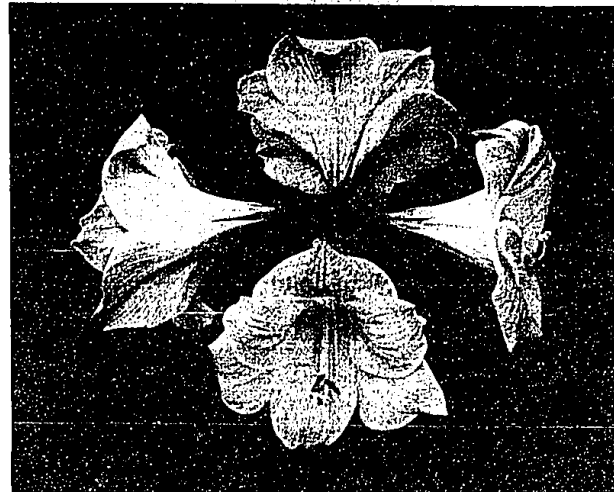
Sources and prices (not including shipping costs) are:

■ Dutch Gardens, P.O. Box 200, Adelphi, N.J. 07710. Prices: Casa Blanca Lily, three for \$9.76; Kelvin Floodlight Dahlia, three for \$4.95; Coronaria Anemone, 15 for \$3.25.

■ Niche Gardens, 1111 Dawson Road, Chapel Hill, S.C. 27616. Prices: catalog, \$3; Becky's Daisy, \$6.50.

Marge Alpern is a Birmingham-based freelance writer and avid gardener.

Harmonious quartet



Spring sight: While Monte Nagler is off to the Great Smoky Mountains in pursuit of new photographs for his column, here's a picture to whet your appetite for springtime weather. Nagler photographed this "quartet" of amaryllis at the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Entries sought for 13th 'Celebrate Life' art show

The Congregational Church of Birmingham is inviting artists in diverse media from southeast Michigan and across the country, to enter its 13th annual juried art show, "Celebrate Life."

Entry forms are due Tuesday, June 1, before the juried exhibition opens to the public Saturday, June 12.

Suzanne Hilberry, owner of the Suzanne Hilberry Gallery in Birmingham, will jury the show. More than 400 artists entered the show in 1992.

Paintings, drawings, collages, hard and soft sculpture, graphics, photography, ceramics and fiber are eligible for entry. The Katharine Kell Best of Show award of

\$300 will be given to a single winning work to the six \$100 merit awards will be given at the juror's discretion.

Each artist may enter two separate works.

Paintings and hangings must not exceed 6 feet in width or length, and must be prepared for hanging. Sculpture dimensions must not exceed 6 feet in length, 5

feet in width and 6 feet in depth and 200 pounds in weight. All two-dimensional works must be wired with screw eyes or hanging devices.

Each work must be labeled on the reverse side with title, price and artist's name. Work previously exhibited in a COB show won't be considered. Out-of-area artists must make

arrangements for return of works after the close of the show.

Entry forms must be accompanied by a \$10 entry fee and submitted to Art Committee, Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills 48013.

Works of art are due at the church Friday, June 4. Art works will be judged Monday, June 7,

and awards will be formally presented at a reception 7-9 p.m. Friday, June 11, at the church.

Artists will be notified by mail of works to be included in the show. Artists not notified by mail Wednesday, June 9, should call COB at 646-4511 between 6 and 7 p.m.

The exhibition will be open to the public 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

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Brokers Welcome!

Homeowners to Save \$500 Million in Real Estate Commissions in 1993

SOUTHFIELD - The home-selling season is underway and there is exciting news for Michigan homeowners. This year, Michigan homeowners are targeted for savings of \$500 million dollars in real estate commissions to encourage homeowners to realize a larger profit from the sale of their home.

Throughout the country, millions of homeowners are looking for a way to sell their homes with complete professional support from their realtor without having to pay 6% of the sales price of their home in real estate commissions.

The Consumer Federation of America, representing 50 million home owners and 250 consumer advocacy organizations nationwide conducted an important study and found strong homeowner disapproval of 6% REALTOR commissions.

Phil Donague and Ralph Nader have publicly spoken out against the heavy cost of home-selling and the injustice of paying 6% commissions.

Now, thousands of excited homeowners are calling Michigan's famous 2% commission brokers. HMA is the real estate industry what Schwab, Okie, Walmart, K-Mart, Office Max and McDonalds are to their respective industries. With HMA, happy homeowners are selling their homes and saving \$3,000 to \$40,000 in real estate commissions.

Homeowners are calling HOME MARKETING OF AMERICA (HMA). Based in Southfield, HMA is an association of licensed real estate brokers, agents, advertising, mortgage and title experts. HMA sells homes throughout the Tri-County area. For a \$29 commission at closing, HMA provides homeowners with every professional real estate service required to sell and close any home. HMA professionals do 95% of the work of selling a home, the owners do 5% of the work by walking HMA's buyers through their own home. Any homeowner who wants 100% service can have it at HMA for 4% commission. HMA guarantees that homeowners will never pay 6% real estate commissions.

HMA sells homes valued from \$60,000 to \$3,000,000. HMA has been serving Michigan homeowners for better than eight years and HMA is a major player in the real estate field. HMA was formerly known as HMS.

HMA specializes in selling majestic homes in the million dollar range in Bloomfield Hills. Any buyer interested in purchasing lavish homes should call HMA at 353-7170. Available immediately are: (1) Brand new, nearly 11,000 square foot extravaganza on Heron Wood Drive. It is the epitome of splendor with 21' high ceilings; Marble and Oak everywhere. This home is for sale at \$1,250,000 and it is worth it! (2) A fabulous lakefront on Lower Long Lake on Franklin Road. A treasure selling for \$990,000. (3) An exclusive estate on five prime acres in the City of Bloomfield Hills. Perfect for celebrity seeking privacy and prestigious location. This elegant property is for sale for \$985,000. (4) An ultra-contemporary, nearly 7,000 square foot showplace on Square Lake Road. This glamorous home, replete with dance floor is made-to-order for the couple who enjoys throwing extravagant parties for large groups. This rare home is selling for \$849,000. Between these, these homeowners can save \$160,000 just in real estate commissions!

For real estate agents also, HMA is proving to be the place where the money is. Take the example of Donald Henkelman, a member of the Real Estate

of the South Oakland County Board of Realtors. Mr. Henkelman joined HMA three weeks ago as a Senior Vice President after spending nearly 30 years as a traditional realtor. In his three weeks with HMA, he has been completely amazed by his own success and the ease with which he achieved his success. In just three weeks, Mr. Henkelman has chalked up sales of over \$500,000 and taken listings worth over \$2,000,000. And, Mr. Henkelman did not make one single cold call or go to a home that did not result in a listing. This is a tribute to the HMA home-selling system and to Mr. Henkelman's wisdom in sailing with the HMA tide.

HMA has made it possible for Michigan homeowners to benefit from its phenomenally successful home-selling system. You can call HMA's CLIENT HOTLINE at 353-7170 for a listing appointment. You are warmly invited to visit HMA's offices at 26222 Telegraph Road in Southfield for a FREE consultation and market analysis on your home. HMA sells homes throughout Oakland, Wayne and Macomb Counties. HMA offices are open 7 days a week.

WE COME TO YOU!!

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MORTGAGE RATE UPDATE

A Weekly Survey of Detroit Area Lenders

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